

Field Crop Reporting Series



March Intentions of Principal Field
Crop Areas



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Field Crop Reporting Series

March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Areas

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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April 2012

Catalogue no. 22-002-X, vol. 91, no. 2

ISSN 1488-9900

Frequency: Irregular

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

User information

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- p preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Highlights

March intentions of principal field crop areas

- Early intentions for planting in 2012 show increases in spring wheat and durum wheat compared with 2011, and a possible record acreage of canola. Indications are soybean acreage could reach a record high nationally. In the East, farmers anticipate seeding a record area of corn for grain.

Analysis

March intentions of principal field crop areas

Early intentions for planting in 2012 show increases in spring wheat and durum wheat compared with 2011, and a possible record acreage of canola.

Indications are soybean acreage could reach a record high nationally. In the East, farmers anticipate seeding a record area of corn for grain.

Farmers may modify their plans prior to planting time as a result of economic and environmental conditions. Some farmers indicated that they were still undecided about their final strategies for 2012.

Possible record acreage for canola

Survey results indicate that Canadian farmers may seed a record 20.4 million acres of canola in 2012, up 8.0% or 1.5 million acres from the previous record of 18.9 million acres set in 2011. This would be the sixth consecutive annual record in canola area at the national level.

The majority of this increase is driven by Saskatchewan, where farmers anticipate increasing their canola seeding by 9.9% to a record high 10.8 million acres.

In Manitoba, farmers reported intentions to plant more canola, rebounding from 2011's flood-induced decline in acreage. From 2.7 million acres seeded in 2011, they now intend to seed 3.3 million acres to canola, an increase of 19.3%.

Area for wheat expected to increase

At the national level, spring wheat area could rise by 9.0% or 1.4 million acres to 17.2 million acres in 2012.

Similarly, durum wheat acreage is expected to increase for a second consecutive year, to 5.1 million acres, from 4.0 million acres in 2011.

In Saskatchewan, intentions show planting of spring wheat amounting to 8.6 million acres, up 14.7% or 1.1 million acres. Durum wheat acreage in Saskatchewan is expected to rise 28.1%, or 975,000 acres, to 4.5 million acres.

In Manitoba, farmers anticipate that their seeded area of spring wheat will rise 24.9% in 2012 to 2.5 million acres.

In Alberta, however, early intentions are for 5.9 million acres of spring wheat, down 2.3% from the 2011 seeded area.

Potential for record acreage of corn for grain in the East

In Ontario, farmers expect to seed a record of 2.24 million acres of corn for grain, up by 335,000 acres or 17.6% over 2011. This would break the previous record of 2.17 million acres set in 1981.

In Quebec, farmers anticipate the area seeded to corn for grain to rise 16.2% to just over a million acres in 2012.

Soybean acreage on the rise

Nationally, farmers are expecting to seed a soybean area reaching nearly 4.0 million acres in 2012, up from 3.8 million acres the year before. This would be a record high.

Ontario farmers anticipate seeding 2.5 million acres of soybeans in 2012. If these intentions are realized, this level would surpass the record seeded areas of 2010 and 2011.

Conversely, Quebec farmers plan to plant fewer acres of soybeans in 2012. Survey results show a 16.0% decline from 741,300 acres in 2011 to 622,700 acres. It would be the first decline in acres seeded to soybeans in Quebec since 2007.

Manitoba farmers anticipate seeding 800,000 acres in 2012, which would represent a fourth consecutive annual record high. If realized, such an increase, coupled with the intended decline in Quebec soybean area, would give Manitoba the second largest soybean area after Ontario.

Related products

Selected publications from Statistics Canada

21-206-X	Statistics on Income of Farm Operators
21-207-X	Statistics on Income of Farm Families
21-208-X	Statistics on Revenues and Expenses of Farms
22-003-X	Fruit and Vegetable Production
22-008-X	Canadian Potato Production
23-221-X	Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products
23-501-X	Livestock Feed Requirements Study
23-502-X	Alternative Livestock on Canadian Farms
96-325-X	Canadian Agriculture at a Glance
96-328-M	Canadian Agriculture at a Glance - Teacher's Kit

Selected CANSIM tables from Statistics Canada

001-0010	Estimated areas, yield, production and average farm price of principal field crops, in metric units, annual
001-0014	Area, production and farm value of potatoes, annual
001-0017	Estimated areas, yield, production, average farm price and total farm value of principal field crops, in imperial units, annual
001-0040	Stocks of grain and oilseeds at March 31, July 31 and December 31, 3 times per year
001-0041	Supply and disposition of grains in Canada as of March 31, July 31, August 31 (soybeans only) and December 31, 3 times per year
001-0042	Supply and disposition of corn in Canada and selected provinces as of March 31, August 31 and December 31, 3 times per year
001-0043	Farm supply and disposition of grains as of March 31, July 31, August 31 (soybeans only) and December 31, 3 times per year

Selected surveys from Statistics Canada

3401	Field Crop Reporting Series
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Selected summary tables from Statistics Canada

- *Field and specialty crops*

Statistical tables

Table 1
March 2012 intended areas compared with 2011 seeded areas

	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012	2011 to March 2012	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012
	thousands of hectares		% change	thousands of acres	
Canada					
Winter wheat ¹	683.3	828.1	21.2	1,688.6	2,046.6
Spring wheat	6,377.9	6,951.4	9.0	15,760.3	17,177.9
Durum wheat	1,624.8	2,063.9	27.0	4,015.0	5,100.0
All wheat ²	8,686.0	9,843.4	13.3	21,464.0	24,324.5
Oats	1,258.0	1,373.1	9.1	3,108.7	3,393.1
Barley	2,619.1	3,224.5	23.1	6,472.1	7,967.7
Fall rye ¹	80.9	119.3	47.5	200.0	295.0
Flaxseed ³	281.2	420.9	49.6	695.0	1,040.0
Canola	7,633.2	8,244.3	8.0	18,862.0	20,372.0
Corn for grain	1,217.7	1,441.3	18.4	3,009.2	3,561.5
Soybeans	1,549.9	1,606.2	3.6	3,829.8	3,969.2
Dry peas	942.0	1,339.5	42.2	2,328.0	3,310.0
Lentils	1,040.0	995.5	-4.3	2,570.0	2,460.0
Summerfallow	5,022.0	1,606.0	-68.0	12,410.0	3,970.0
Maritimes					
Winter wheat ¹	3.8	4.2	10.5	9.5	10.5
Spring wheat	9.9	9.7	-2.0	24.5	24.0
All wheat ²	13.7	13.9	1.5	34.0	34.5
Oats	14.7	13.5	-8.2	36.5	33.5
Barley	32.9	31.4	-4.9	81.5	77.5
Mixed grains	2.8	2.4	-14.3	7.0	6.0
Corn for grain	10.9	14.6	33.3	27.0	36.0
Soybeans	29.8	28.9	-2.7	73.5	71.5
Fodder corn	9.4	8.4	-10.6	23.5	21.0
Quebec					
Winter wheat ¹	3.7	4.5	22.0	9.1	11.1
Spring wheat	40.0	38.0	-5.0	98.8	93.9
All wheat ²	43.7	42.5	-2.8	108.0	105.0
Oats	96.0	99.0	3.1	237.2	244.6
Barley	82.0	79.0	-3.7	202.6	195.2
Mixed grains	14.0	18.5	32.1	34.6	45.7
Canola	17.0	17.0	0.0	42.0	42.0
Corn for grain	357.0	415.0	16.2	882.2	1,025.5
Soybeans	300.0	252.0	-16.0	741.3	622.7
Fodder corn	59.0	47.0	-20.4	145.8	116.1
Ontario					
Winter wheat ¹	443.1	327.8	-26.0	1,095.0	810.0
Spring wheat	32.4	28.3	-12.5	80.0	70.0
All wheat ²	475.5	356.1	-25.1	1,175.0	880.0
Oats	22.3	24.3	9.1	55.0	60.0
Barley	44.5	50.6	13.6	110.0	125.0
Fall rye ¹	10.1	12.1	20.0	25.0	30.0
Mixed grains	36.4	30.4	-16.7	90.0	75.0
Canola	32.4	32.4	0.0	80.0	80.0
Corn for grain	768.9	904.5	17.6	1,900.0	2,235.0
Soybeans	987.4	1,001.6	1.4	2,440.0	2,475.0
Total dry beans	34.4	40.5	17.6	85.0	100.0
Fodder corn	80.9	80.9	0.0	200.0	200.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1 – continued

March 2012 intended areas compared with 2011 seeded areas

	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012	2011 to March 2012	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012
	thousands of hectares		% change	thousands of acres	
Manitoba					
Winter wheat ¹	74.9	218.5	191.9	185.0	540.0
Spring wheat	802.1	1,001.5	24.9	1,982.0	2,475.0
All wheat ²	877.0	1,220.0	39.1	2,167.0	3,015.0
Oats	202.3	261.0	29.0	500.0	645.0
Barley	137.6	279.2	102.9	340.0	690.0
Fall rye ¹	18.2	38.4	111.1	45.0	95.0
Flaxseed ³	38.4	66.8	73.7	95.0	165.0
Canola	1,102.8	1,315.2	19.3	2,725.0	3,250.0
Corn for grain	72.8	107.2	47.2	180.0	265.0
Soybeans	232.7	323.7	39.1	575.0	800.0
Total dry beans	24.3	58.7	141.7	60.0	145.0
Dry peas	11.3	28.3	150.0	28.0	70.0
Sunflower seeds	14.2	24.3	71.4	35.0	60.0
Fodder corn	18.2	26.3	44.4	45.0	65.0
Summerfallow	1,093.0	81.0	-92.6	2,700.0	200.0
Saskatchewan					
Winter wheat ¹	85.0	226.6	166.7	210.0	560.0
Spring wheat	3,018.9	3,464.1	14.7	7,460.0	8,560.0
Durum wheat	1,406.3	1,800.9	28.1	3,475.0	4,450.0
All wheat ²	4,510.2	5,491.6	21.8	11,145.0	13,570.0
Oats	566.6	657.6	16.1	1,400.0	1,625.0
Barley	880.2	1,153.4	31.0	2,175.0	2,850.0
Fall rye ¹	36.4	54.6	50.0	90.0	135.0
Flaxseed ³	216.5	354.1	63.6	535.0	875.0
Canola	3,957.8	4,350.4	9.9	9,780.0	10,750.0
Dry peas	629.3	916.6	45.7	1,555.0	2,265.0
Lentils	995.5	961.1	-3.5	2,460.0	2,375.0
Mustard seed	107.3	93.1	-13.2	265.0	230.0
Canary seed	95.1	111.3	17.0	235.0	275.0
Chick peas	42.5	107.2	152.4	105.0	265.0
Summerfallow	3,318.0	1,052.0	-68.3	8,200.0	2,600.0
Alberta					
Winter wheat ¹	72.8	46.5	-36.1	180.0	115.0
Spring wheat	2,444.3	2,387.6	-2.3	6,040.0	5,900.0
Durum wheat	218.5	263.0	20.4	540.0	650.0
All wheat ²	2,735.6	2,697.1	-1.4	6,760.0	6,665.0
Oats	323.7	283.3	-12.5	800.0	700.0
Barley	1,416.4	1,598.5	12.9	3,500.0	3,950.0
Fall rye ¹	16.2	14.2	-12.5	40.0	35.0
Mixed grains	48.6	56.7	16.7	120.0	140.0
Canola	2,488.8	2,488.8	0.0	6,150.0	6,150.0
Dry peas	301.4	394.6	30.9	745.0	975.0
Lentils	44.5	34.4	-22.7	110.0	85.0
Summerfallow	597.0	465.0	-22.0	1,475.0	1,150.0
British Columbia					
Spring wheat	30.3	22.2	-26.7	75.0	55.0
Oats	32.4	34.4	6.3	80.0	85.0
Barley	25.5	32.4	27.0	63.0	80.0
Canola	34.4	40.5	17.6	85.0	100.0
Fodder corn	10.1	12.1	20.0	25.0	30.0
Summerfallow	14.0	8.0	-42.9	35.0	20.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1 – continued

March 2012 intended areas compared with 2011 seeded areas

	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012	2011 to March 2012	Seeded area 2011	Intended area 2012
	thousands of hectares		% change	thousands of acres	
Western Canada ⁴					
Winter wheat ¹	232.7	491.6	111.3	575.0	1,215.0
Spring wheat	6,295.6	6,875.4	9.2	15,557.0	16,990.0
Durum wheat	1,624.8	2,063.9	27.0	4,015.0	5,100.0
All wheat ²	8,153.1	9,430.9	15.7	20,147.0	23,305.0
Oats	1,125.0	1,236.3	9.9	2,780.0	3,055.0
Barley	2,459.7	3,063.5	24.5	6,078.0	7,570.0
Fall rye ¹	70.8	107.2	51.4	175.0	265.0
Flaxseed ³	281.2	420.9	49.6	695.0	1,040.0
Canola	7,583.8	8,194.9	8.1	18,740.0	20,250.0
Dry peas	942.0	1,339.5	42.2	2,328.0	3,310.0
Summerfallow	5,022.0	1,606.0	-68.0	12,410.0	3,970.0

1. The area remaining after winterkill.

2. All wheat is the sum of winter wheat after winterkill, spring wheat and durum wheat.

3. Excludes solin.

4. Western Canada includes Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Concepts and definitions

Crop categories

Major field crops: wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, canola, corn for grain and soybeans.

Oilseeds: canola, flaxseed, soybeans and sunflower seed.

Major special crops: dry beans, dry field peas, lentils, mustard seed, Canary seed, sunflower seed and chick peas.

Methodology and data quality

Survey frame and sample selection

Every five years, the Census of Agriculture collects information on agricultural operations across Canada, including institutional farms, community pastures, farms on First Nations reserves, etc.. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms and their crop areas from which probability sample for the March Farm Survey is selected.

The target population for the March Farm Survey includes all farms in Canada enumerated in the Census of Agriculture except institutional farms, farms on First Nations reserves and farms from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut and Atlantic region.

Probability surveys can use two types of sampling frames: list and area. In the March Farm Survey, only the list frame is used in sample selection. This list frame is stratified into homogenous groups on the basis of Census characteristics (such as farm size and crop area) and sub-provincial geographic boundaries. A sample of approximately 13,400 farms has been drawn from the list frame for the March 2012 Farm Survey.

Data collection

The March 2012 Farm Survey was carried out from March 23 to March 30. Data collection was undertaken using the "Computer assisted telephone interview" (CATI) system.

Edit and imputation

With the CATI system, it is possible to implement edit procedures at the time of the interview. Computer programmed edit checks in the CATI system inform interviewers during the interview of possible data errors, which can then be corrected immediately by the interviewer and respondent. CATI significantly reduces the need for subsequent telephone follow-up, thereby reducing respondent burden and survey processing time.

Response rate

Usually by the end of the collection period, 80% of the questionnaires have been fully completed. The refusal rate to the survey was approximately 8 to 9%. The remainder of the sample unaccounted for can be explained by non-contact and non-response. Initial sample weights are adjusted by a process called "raising factor adjustment" in cases of total and partial non-response. No imputation is performed for missing values.

Sampling and non-sampling errors

The statistics contained in this publication are based on a random sample of agricultural operations and, as such, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The overall quality of the estimates depends on the combined effect of these two types of errors.

Sampling errors arise because estimates are derived from sample data and not from the entire population. These errors depend on factors such as sample size, sampling design and the method of estimation. An important feature of probability sampling is that sampling errors can be measured from the sample itself.

Non-sampling errors are errors which are not related to sampling and may occur throughout the survey operation for many reasons. For example, non-response is an important source of non-sampling errors. Coverage, differences in the interpretation of questions, incorrect information from respondents, mistakes in recording, coding and processing of data are other examples of non-sampling errors.

Estimation

The survey data collected are weighted in order to produce unbiased level indicators which are representative of the population. These level indicators then undergo a validation process, based on subject matter analysis, before final estimates are published.

Revisions

The March seeding intentions estimates contained in this publication are not revised, since seeding intentions represent plans, not actual occurrences.

Data quality

The March seeding intentions estimates in this publication are based on level indicators obtained from a probability survey of farming operations. The potential error introduced by sampling can be estimated from the sample itself by using a statistical measure called the “coefficient of variation” (c.v.). Over repeated surveys, 95 times out of 100, the relative difference between a sample estimate and what should have been obtained from an enumeration of all farming operations would be less than twice the c.v.. This range of values is referred to as the “confidence interval”. While published estimates may not exactly equal the level indicators due to the validation, these estimates do remain within the confidence interval of the survey level indicators. For the March Farm Survey, c.v.’s range from 5% to 10% for the major crops. C.v.’s for specialty crops and small areas of major crops are usually within 11% to 25%.

Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to the use of conversion factors or rounding of fractions to whole numbers.

Data confidentiality

Data confidentiality is ensured under the *Statistics Act*, which prohibits the divulging of individual or aggregated data where individuals or businesses might be identified.

Field crop reporting series calendar

Catalogue 22-002-X

The eight reports in this series, which are released at strategic times during the crop year, contain data on stocks of grain and crop area, yield and production. Three reports provide data on stocks of grain at both farm and commercial positions for Canada and the provinces (report nos. 1, 3 and 6). The first report on seeded area (no. 2, in April) contains the seeding intentions of producers, while the June report (no. 4) contains the actual seeded areas of field crops. Yields and levels of production by province are estimated before harvest (report no. 5), during harvest (no. 7) and after harvest (no. 8). Release time for all reports is 08:30 hrs, Eastern time. For further information, please contact Client Services, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada at 1-800-465-1991 or by email: agriculture@statcan.gc.ca.

Text table 1

Publication release dates

Report No. & Title	2012 Release Dates
1- Stocks of principal field crops at December 31, 2011	February 3
2- March intentions of principal field crops areas	April 24
3- Stocks of principal field crops at March 31, 2012	May 7
4- Preliminary estimates of principal field crops areas	June 27
5- July estimates of production of principal field crops	August 22
6- Stocks of principal field crops at July 31, 2012	September 7
7- September estimates of production of principal field crops	October 4
8- November estimates of production of principal field crops	December 5

Cereals and oilseeds review

Catalogue 22-007-X

This publication provides up-to-date marketing data and analysis for wheat, coarse grains, oilseeds and special crops. Each monthly issue contains producer marketings, exports of grain and grain products, domestic and international supply-disposition tables, oilseed crushing and grain milling data, and cash and future prices. A situation report highlights the month's events.

Some issues contain annual supplementary data. They include the Prices supplement; the Processing supplement; the Methodology and concepts supplement; the Feed grain purchases supplement and the Grain storage & movement supplement.

For further information, please contact Client Services, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada at 1-800-465-1991 or by email: agriculture@statcan.gc.ca.

Release dates - 2012

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

 Field Crop Reporting Series

 Cereals and Oilseeds Review